

## **REMARKS**

Claims 39-76 are currently pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 39, 58, 69, and 73 are independent.

### **Request for Acknowledgement of Prior Replacement Drawings**

Applicant mailed replacement drawings on March 1, 2004 and respectfully requests acknowledgement as to whether such drawings have been accepted.

### **Restriction Requirement**

In the Office Action, restriction to either subject matter corresponding to claims 1-6, 13-15, 21-23, and 29-32 (Group I) or subject matter corresponding to claims 7-12, 16-20, 24-28, and 33-38 (Group II) is required.

Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, subject matter corresponding to Group II and respectfully submits such subject matter now corresponds to at least new claims 39-52, 56-63, and 67-76.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this restriction requirement because subject matter corresponding to Group I is no longer claimed independently of subject matter corresponding to Group II. Rather, subject matter corresponding to Group I is now only claimed, for example in dependent claims 53-55 and 64-66, in combination with subject matter corresponding to Group II. Applicant respectfully submits that no restriction requirement would have been made had new claims 39-76 been originally presented in this application.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to help expedite the prosecution of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Matthew C. Fagan, Reg. No. 37,542/

Matthew C. Fagan  
Registration No. 37,542  
Telephone: (512) 732-3936  
Facsimile: (512) 732-3912 (please call first)

c/o Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, L.L.P.  
12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
Telephone: (503) 439-8778  
Telephone: (310) 207-3800